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Testimony on S.B. 284: An Act Increasing the Age From Eight to Eighteen Years For An Income-Eligible Person To Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status

March 11, 2022

Submitted by
Robert M. Goodrich

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Robert Goodrich, and I am a Waterbury resident, a father, an educator and an organizational leader of an education advocacy organization that fights for racial justice in our schools.

I stand in support of **S.B. 284**, because it will expand access to Husky for children up to age 18 regardless of immigration status. Currently thousands of school-aged children and their families struggle to access life saving as well as preventative health care measures and this unfairly burdens immigrants. As a parent and advocate I applauded your efforts to expand Husky access last year. To be clear we need to expand coverage for folx of all ages not just up to the age of eighteen.

The fact that the day an immigrant child turns nine years old they are ineligible for Husky is heart breaking and a disturbing bright line that scars our communities. It's a moral imperative to expand access to Husky. It is an act not only of compassion but a sound policy *choice* that strengthens our communities in innumerable ways. We can all agree that children, who are also students, that have access to preventative healthcare have a better chance to attain higher educational outcomes than those who have to suffer with untreated diabetes, heart disease or even asthma.

As a policy, the choice to expand Husky to immigrants who are 18 years old is an easy one. I ask that you to reflect on your choices not to expand it sooner and why we aren't expanding access to Husky for all Connecticut residents regardless of immigrant status.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Goodrich
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